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Science

Science

Life Science

# Grow a Tomato!

by Kristin Cashore



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
How-to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fact and Opinion</li><li>• Main Idea</li><li>• Ask Questions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Labels</li></ul>

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illustrated by Nicole Wong





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It is always good to eat vegetables. It is also good to grow your vegetables!

Tomatoes are good vegetables for growing at home. How do you grow tomatoes?



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Illustrations by Nicole Wong

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First, plant tomato seeds in small pots. Put the pots in a warm, sunny place in your house. Water them. Soon green stems will peek out. Leaves will grow! Keep them inside for six weeks.



Outside, dig holes in the soil. Take any rocks out of the soil so that it will not be bumpy.

Slide the plants out of the pots. Be careful not to break the roots. Place them into the holes. Pat down the soil around the plants.





Tomatoes are thirsty plants. They will need water. Do not water one plant more than others. Also, do not let the soil stay dry for too long.



Fertilizer is special food for plants that helps them grow. You can buy fertilizer or make your own. Some people use food scraps and plants to make their own fertilizer called *compost*.







Tomato plants can grow quite tall. The tomato vines must be held up. If not, the tomato plants will flop on the ground. They will not get enough sun.



Wooden stakes can keep your tomato plants standing tall. As the plants grow, tie the vines to the stakes. Tie them very gently so the vines do not break.

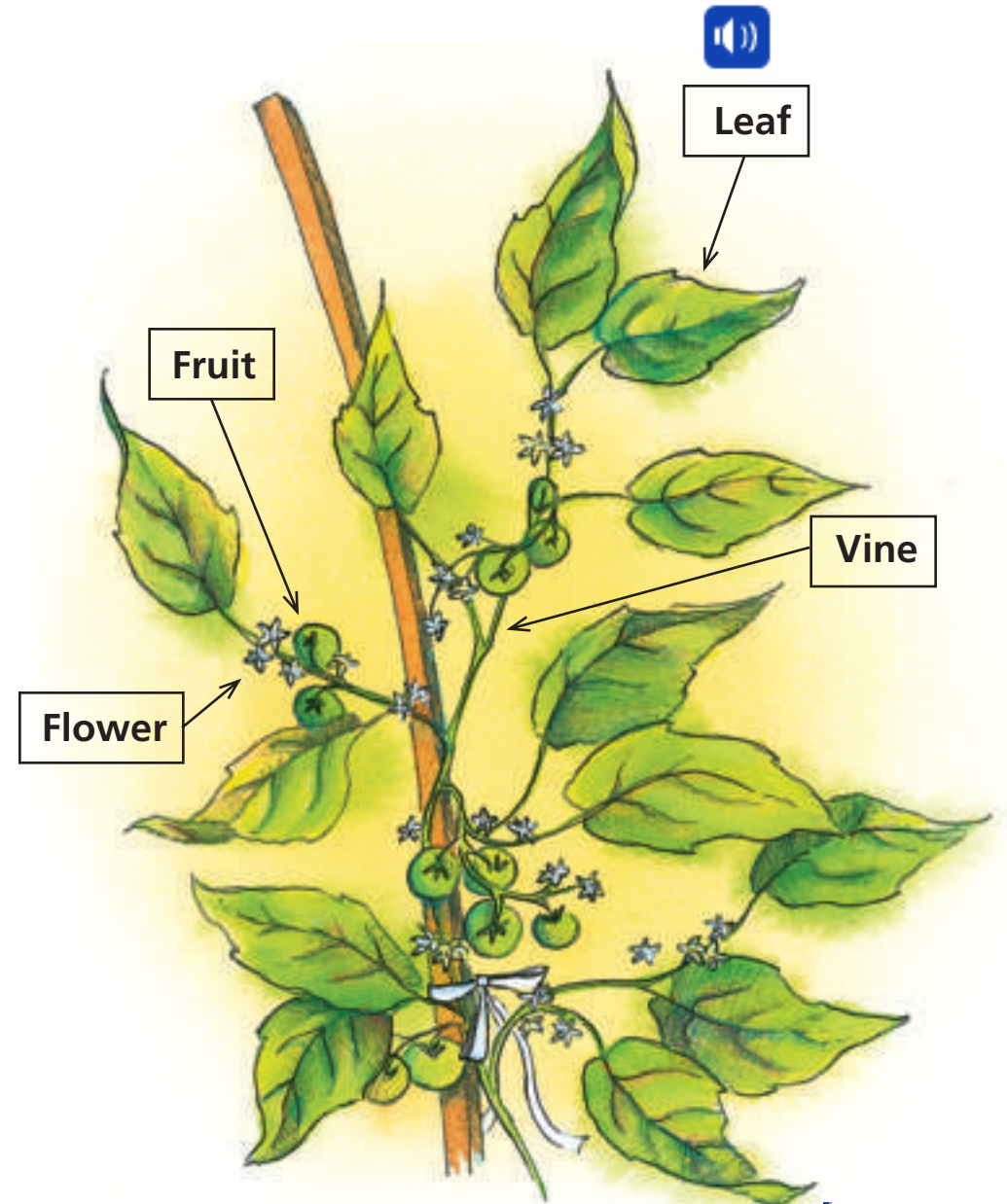




You must also prune your tomato plants. When you prune, you trim the leaves and stems that are yellow or brown. Try to keep the plants healthy and green!



If you water, fertilize, stake, and prune your tomato plants, they will grow. White or yellow flowers will bloom. Soon, small green fruit will start to show. Tomatoes are on the way!







It is time for harvest when your tomatoes are a deep red color. Pick them. Wash them so that they are clean and smooth. Then enjoy your tomatoes!



## Reader Response

1. Read page 6 of this book again. Is the information that tomato plants need water a statement of fact or opinion? What words on the page help you know this?
2. What new information did you learn about growing tomatoes from this book? Use a chart like the one below to help you think of questions you may need to ask to learn more before growing a tomato plant.

Learned	Questions

3. The words *bumpy* and *smooth* both tell how something feels. List other words that tell how something feels?
4. What do the words *vine* and *stake* mean? Use the pictures on pages 8 and 9 to help you understand these words.

